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April 25, 1959

Synopsis of Intelligence material reported to the President

USSR-UAR

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MOROCCO



Rabat apparently will soon resume formal negotiations -- suspended since last fall -- regarding the five American air bases located in Morocco. The government is almost certain to press the US to take further steps toward the evacuation of the bases. Premier Ibrahim, under mounting pressure to eliminate all foreign troops from Morocco, has already raised with Madrid the question of withdrawing the 10,500 Spanish troops from northern Morocco, and King Mohamed V has asked that an agreement on the 28,000 French troops be reached during his projected meeting with De Gaulle.

JAPAN

The ruling conservatives under Prime Minister Kishi maintained their predominance over the Socialists in the 23 April elections by winning the key governorships of Tokyo, Osaka, and Hokkaido. The contest in the crucial, Tokyo race was close and the Socialists won the important governorship of Fukuoka as was anticipated. The elections revealed no major shift in the relative strength of the two parties. Nevertheless, conservative success in stemming the pro-Socialist trend of recent years should exert an important psychological influence in favor of the conservatives in the June upper-house elections, as well as strengthen Kishi's personal position.

WEST BERLIN

A public opinion poll in West Berlin and West Germany on the Berlin crisis reaffirms that faith in the West, particularly in the US, remains

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strong, both in terms of Western power and Western determination to protect Berlin. The Germans are not so confident of the West's negotiating position, but they discount the danger of war and believe the USSR will back down or compromise. West Germans favor accepting East German control over Allied access rather than risking war and nearly two-thirds of them would have Bonn negotiate with the East German regime on reunification. On this latter question opinion is divided in West Berlin, but a substantial majority in both areas agree that free elections are essential for reunification.

BRITAIN

Macmillan's decision not to call general elections this spring will tend to increase pressures on his government to promote compromises in coming East-West negotiations. The elections, mandatory by May 1960, are now most likely to be called in October. The American Embassy has noted that holding elections soon after summit talks would place Macmillan under maximum pressure to secure agreement there in view of the expected closeness of the electoral contest.

John S D Eisenhower



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